

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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PA-02 SP-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /035 W  
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R 310333Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO USICA WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
SECSTATE WASHDC 6150

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 04636

EO 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: 1978 AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND AMERICAN STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

1. THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD IN NEW ZEALAND WAS A SOLID SUCCESS. FROM AUGUST 21 TO 24, 1978, 23 SESSIONS AND SYMPOSIA ON MANY ASPECTS OF HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY AMERICA WERE HELD ON THE CAMPUS OF CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY IN CHRISTCHURCH. IN THE OPINION OF THE POST AND THE CONFERENCE'S PRINCIPAL ORGANIZER, THE DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES AT CANTERBURY, CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED AMERICAN PARTICIPANT ALFRED KAZIN, A SYMPOSIUM ON AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD NEW ZEALAND, AND A RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR SELDEN, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR BERT BROWNLIE.

2. THE POST THINKS THE CHRISTCHURCH CONFERENCE CONSIDERABLY FURTHERED PROGRAM PLANS TWO AND THREE. THE PARTICIPATION OF AMERICAN FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS LECTURING IN NEW ZEALAND ALSO ADVANCED PROGRAM PLAN FIVE.

3. MUCH OF THE SUCCESS OF THE AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE WAS DUE TO THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.

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ABOUT 50 AUSTRALIANS, 30 NEW ZEALANDERS, AND SEVERAL AMERICAN FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS LECTURING IN BOTH COUNTRIES QUICKLY COMBINED TO PRODUCE A FRIENDLY, INFORMAL GROUP WHICH OFTEN DISCUSSED IDEAS RAISED DURING THE REGULAR SESSIONS UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT. ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS STAYED IN THE SAME CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY DORMITORY, WHICH FACILITATED INFORMAL CONTACT.

4. ALFRED KAZIN'S FORMAL PRESENTATION FOCUSED ON HENRY ADAMS, AS HAD TWO PREVIOUS LECTURES, BUT HE NEVERTHELESS STIMULATED HIS AUDIENCE AS DID FEW OTHER PARTICIPANTS. APART FROM HIS LECTURE, WHICH MANY TERMED "SUPERB", KAZIN ENTHUSIASTICALLY JOINED IN DISCUSSION SESSIONS AND INFORMAL GATHERINGS. HE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTOR TO THE CHRISTCHURCH CONFERENCE.

5. THE OTHER AMERICAN PARTICIPANT, WALTER HUGINS, GAVE A GENERALIZED BUT BASICALLY SOLID PRESENTATION ON "THE CHANGING AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE," WHICH UNFORTUNATELY SUFFERED FROM HAVING BEEN PRECEDED BY A DRAMATIC AND CONTROVERSIAL LECTURE, "WHAT WAS SO FUNNY ABOUT 1968?", BY HECTOR KINLOCH, OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. THE ANIMATED DISCUSSION FOLLOWING KINLOCH'S PRESENTATION DEPLETED THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL RESOURCES OF HUGINS' AUDIENCE, TO SOME EXTENT, AND DISCUSSION WAS SPORADIC AND LARGELY UNINSPIRED.

6. THE SYMPOSIUM ON NEW ZEALAND-U.S. RELATIONS FEATURED LLOYD WHITE, FORMER N.Z. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES; GEORGE LAKING, NEW ZEALAND OMBUDSMAN AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND FULBRIGHT COMMISSION AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.; JOHN HENDERSON, A DUKE UNIVERSITY TRAINED PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY; AND RICHARD DOLS, POLITICAL COUNSELOR AT THE U.S. EMBASSY

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IN WELLINGTON. ALTHOUGH ONLY THE NEW ZEALANDERS ATTENDED, THE SESSION WAS PRODUCTIVE. IT PUT THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE, AND THEN EXAMINED ITS PRESENT STATUS FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF NEW ZEALAND AND THE U.S., AND PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE. ALTHOUGH A THOROUGHLY CANDID EXAMINATION, THE SESSION HAD THE OVERALL EFFECT OF DEMONSTRATING THE DEPTH AND CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN-NEW ZEALAND TIES. UNFORTUNATELY, DISCUSSION TIME AT THE SYMPOSIUM WAS SHORT AFTER THE FOUR PARTICIPANTS HAD FINISHED THEIR PRESENTATIONS; THIS WAS SOMEWHAT AMELIORATED BY INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS LATER IN THE EVENING.

7. THE PRIME MINISTER, ROBERT MULDOON, WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION FOR THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, BUT APPEARED AT A SMALLER GATHERING II THAT EVENING. IN HIS FORMAL REMARKS, THE PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO NEW ZEALAND'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO GRAPPLE WITH ITS NATIONAL IDENTITY. HE ALLUDED TO THE U.S., AS A POWERFUL MULTI-RACIAL DEMOCRACY, WHICH COULD SERVE AS A VALUABLE MODEL FOR NEW ZEALAND IN MANY AREAS. MULDOON ALSO COMMENDED AMERICA'S ROLE IN LIMITING AGRICULTURAL PROTECTIONISM, PARTICULARLY WITH ITS INFLUENCE UPON THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

8. THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT, HOWEVER THAT DIFFERENCES DID EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO FRIENDLY NATIONS. HE CRITICISED THE "TINY" AMERICAN BUTTER IMPORT QUOTA, AND INFERRED THAT THE U.S. BEEF IMPORT CEILING RESTRICTED NEW ZEALAND'S POTENTIAL U.S. MARKET. THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT THE AMERICAN WEST COAST HAD BECOME THE TARGET OF A MAJOR NEW ZEALAND EFFORT AT TRADE PROMOTION IN MANUFACTURED AND PROCESSED PRODUCTS.

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TO USICA WASHDC  
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SECSTATE WASHDC 6151

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9. OCCASIONAL DIFFERENCES SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO OBSCURE THE GREAT COMMUNALITY OF INTERESTS WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, THE PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDED. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS WILL BE SENT VIA TRANSMITTAL SLIP.

10. THE CHRISTCHURCH CONFERENCE IS ALREADY PRODUCING USEFUL "SPINOFF" RESULTS. AN AUGUST 29-30 SEMINAR ON THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEFT HAS JUST CONCLUDED AT WELLINGTON'S VICTORIA UNIVERSITY. SEVERAL AMERICAN FULBRIGHTERS WHO PARTICIPATED AT CHRISTCHURCH TOOK PART. ORGANIZED BY THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY IN CONJUNCTION WITH ICA WELLINGTON, THE SEMINAR FEATURED PRESENTATIONS BY FULBRIGHTERS WARREN VAN TINE (AUSTRALIA), ROSS PETERSON (NEW ZEALAND), AND JOHN DIGGINS, FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. SEVERAL PROMINENT NEW ZEALAND LABOR FIGURES JOINED THE APPROXIMATELY 30 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS WHO ATTENDED THIS EXERCISE, WHICH PROVED TO BE A DISPASSIONATE LOOK AT HOW AMERICAN SOCIAL VALUES HAVE DICTATED THE PATTERNS OF LEFTIST ACTIVITY IN THE U.S.

11. WE THINK THE CHRISTCHURCH CONFERENCE HAS PROVIDED  
A SIGNIFICANT IMPETUS TO AMERICAN STUDIES IN NEW ZEALAND.  
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WE NOW PLAN TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE AMERICAN HISTORY  
DEPARTMENT AT THE CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY, AND THE HISTORY  
DEPARTMENTS OF OTHER UNIVERSITIES, TO MAINTAIN THIS  
MOMENTUM, AS DESCRIBED IN THE FY 79-80 COUNTRY PLAN  
MEMORANDUM (PROJECT THREE). ANDERSON

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